

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1 and 3-5 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and amend Claims 2 and 10 as follows.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The single-crystalline film according to Claim 1;~~ A single-crystalline film disposed between a pair of boundaries, said single-crystalline film comprising a liquid crystal material in a solid crystal phase, wherein said single-crystalline film exhibits a liquid crystal phase having a uniform molecular alignment at a temperature above the solid crystal phase,

wherein the liquid crystal phase includes a lower order liquid crystal phase and a higher order liquid crystal phase.

3 - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The single-crystalline film according to Claim 4;~~ A single-crystalline film disposed between a pair of boundaries, said single-crystalline film comprising a liquid crystal material in a solid crystal phase, wherein said single-crystalline film exhibits a liquid crystal phase having a uniform molecular alignment at a temperature above the solid crystal phase,

wherein the liquid crystal phase includes a smectic phase,

wherein the liquid crystal material exhibits a uniform molecular alignment in a smectic layer in the smectic phase, and

wherein the liquid crystal material has a molecular structure which includes two mutually different terminal groups connected to a mesogen unit and the two terminal groups are directed along an opposite side of the smectic layer in the smectic phase.